

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ALISON KENT-FRIEDMAN,

Plaintiff,

-against-

THE STATE OF NEW YORK, et al.,

Defendants,
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No. 18-CV-4422 (VM) (OTW)

ORDER

ONA T. WANG, United States Magistrate Judge:

The Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization have advised people to take precautions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Chief Judge of this Court has entered standing orders regarding the same. *See, e.g.*, 20-MC-155. In order to protect public health while promoting the "just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding," Fed. R. Civ. P. 1, it is hereby

ORDERED, that counsel shall conduct work remotely. This includes, but is not limited to, client meetings, work meetings, and hand deliveries of courtesy copies to the Court (courtesy copies can be sent via email or mail). It is further

ORDERED, that **no in-person depositions shall take place on or before April 30, 2020**, absent a showing of exceptionally good cause. For depositions planned on or after May 1, 2020, parties shall submit a joint status letter with deposition plan(s) **fourteen (14) days** before the planned deposition(s). It is further

ORDERED, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4), that all unexpired discovery deadlines are hereby EXTENDED for a period of **60 days**. **Counsel shall file a joint proposed order with the new discovery deadlines within seven (7) days of this Order**. Nothing in this Order prevents the parties from seeking to further modify the pretrial schedule in light of the COVID-19 pandemic (or for any other good cause). Before seeking such relief, the parties must, as always, meet and confer (via remote means) in a good faith effort to reach agreement on how best to fulfill the goals of Rule 1 while avoiding unnecessary health risks. It is further

ORDERED that if counsel has any private, personal, familial or medical concerns that they need to share with the Court that would necessitate further orders, counsel may email Wang_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov *ex parte* provided that they advise the other parties that they will be contacting the Court *ex parte*.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 18, 2020
New York, New York

s/ Ona T. Wang

Ona T. Wang
United States Magistrate Judge